

- ◆ The doctor will explain the findings of the examination to you and your child (depending on your child's age and understanding) as well as to any Social Worker and/or Police Officer involved.
- ◆ The doctor will write a report which is then sent to your GP and any Social Worker and/or Police Officer involved.

This record and the hospital records written at the time may be produced as evidence in court if necessary.

What happens if you refuse to let your child be medically examined?

- ◆ Usually a child's parent is asked for consent to the examination. If consent is not given and if the Social Workers and/or Police feel an examination would be in your child's best interests, they may need to discuss this further with you.
- ◆ Sometimes young people may be able to give their own consent and the doctor will decide if this is possible.

We realize how distressing this is for you and your family.

While this process is on-going we will ensure that:

- ◆ We communicate with you openly and honestly about our concerns and the progress and findings of any investigations.
- ◆ We note any information you share with us and ensure this is accurately represented in any meetings or reports that we write
- ◆ We share information and relevant reports with you in a timely manner.
- ◆ We remain focused on the needs of your child to ensure the best possible outcome

Further information about the procedures we follow can be found at www.sssc.org.uk for Staffordshire and www.ddsc.org.uk for Derbyshire.

SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN Child Protection Medical Examination

Information for
Parents and Carers



The safety of your child is our first priority.

When there is a concern that something may have happened to harm your child, Healthcare Professionals are required to follow safeguarding procedures and they have a number of duties and responsibilities.

Why is a medical examination necessary?

- ◆ A medical examination has been requested as there have been concerns about your child.
- ◆ The examination will be carried out by a Senior Children's Doctor (Pediatrician) who has been specially trained for this work.
- ◆ Your written permission (consent) and/or your child's (depending upon your child's age and understanding) will be needed for the examination.
- ◆ Other children in the family may need to be examined as well.

What happens on the Children's ward or the Emergency Department?

- ◆ A children's nurse will take your details.
- ◆ Your child will be weighed and their height measured.

- ◆ The doctor will then come and see you. They may want to ask the social worker or police officer for some background information.

What other questions will you be asked?

- ◆ As the doctor wants to know about the overall health of your child you will be asked about:
 - any illnesses your child has had
 - their birth
 - development
 - immunisations
 - allergies
 - any medication
 - behaviour and progress at school
 - their day-to-day health
 - family history
- ◆ You will also be given an opportunity to talk about any health concerns you may have about your child.

Who else will be present at the examination?

- ◆ You, your child, the doctor and a chaperone. If others need to be present, this will be discussed with you.
- ◆ We might need to give your child treatment or arrange for them to be followed up by a Children's Doctor at a later date. If this is needed, it will be discussed with you at the time.

What happens during the examination?

- ◆ Your child will have a full general examination (top-to-toe). If your child has any obvious injuries then these will be noted, measured and drawn in the child's medical record.
- ◆ The examination can be stopped at any time if they/you wish. A further discussion can then take place as to what is best to do next.

What happens next?

We will investigate any possible medical cause for concerns and we will also investigate whether other injuries are present that cannot easily be seen.

These investigations may include;

- ◆ Blood tests
- ◆ X-Rays of the bones (Skeletal survey)
- ◆ CT scan of the brain
- ◆ Ophthalmology (eye) examination.
- ◆ Clinical photographs

Some of these investigations may take 3 days or so to complete. If necessary, we ask you to stay in hospital to complete these investigations.